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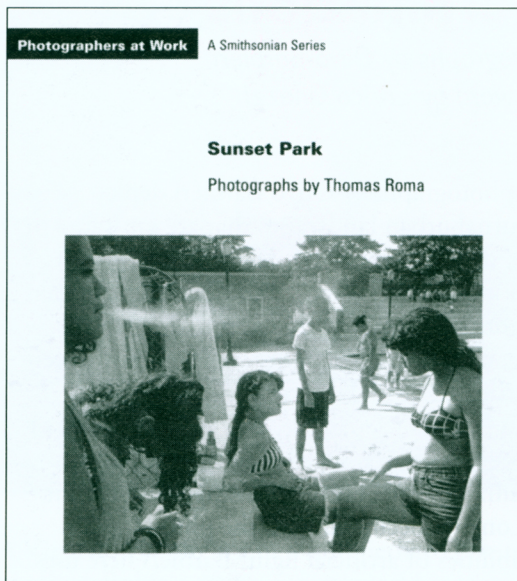
## Sunset Park

Photographs by Thomas Roma

*"Here a camera becomes an instrument of a sharply knowing lyrical poetry that draws its moral energy from a late twentieth-century urban scene; and here, as a consequence, a poignant vitality, an unassuming humanity, are respectfully rendered . . . rescued from the flow of life's events."*—Robert Coles

Few contemporary photographers are as closely identified with one place as Thomas Roma is with Brooklyn, New York. He has lived there from birth, staking his artistic claim to a few dozen square miles and mining them at a slow deliberate pace. Despite the predilection for color among photographers of his generation, he has remained committed to a black-and-white aesthetic and a documentary style.

Begun in 1991 and made over the course of several summers, this selection of 41 duotone photographs from Roma's "Sunset Park Pool" series expresses in formal, sensual images the lassitude of hot afternoons at a huge community swimming pool. The pictures, many of which are staged re-creations, blur the usual distinctions between posed and spontaneous portraiture. Emphasizing minor dramas being played out at the water's edge, they give texture to the details of life at the pool, from wet towels and waterstained cement to shadowlike bodies superimposed against the glare.



Some of the images in **Sunset Park** will be included in an overview exhibition of Thomas Roma's work opening at the International Center for Photography, Uptown, in New York in September 1998.

**Thomas Roma** has exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art in New York and his prints can be found in its permanent collection as well as in the collections of several other museums around the country. The director of photography and a professor of art at Columbia University, he is the author of *Come Sunday, Found in Brooklyn*, *Higher Ground*, and *Old and on Their Own*.

### Photography

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